



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 530**

*January Session, 2003*

Substitute House Bill No. 6480

*House of Representatives, April 24, 2003*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. GIANNAROS of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 10-221a of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

4 (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the  
5 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the  
6 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter  
7 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of  
8 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of  
9 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
10 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to  
11 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
12 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when  
13 the planning and placement team for such student determines the  
14 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section: [,]

15     (1) For classes graduating from 2004 to 2007, inclusive, a credit shall  
16     consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for  
17     each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit  
18     toward high school graduation earned at an institution accredited by  
19     the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One  
20     three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution  
21     shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

22     (2) For classes graduating in 2008, and for each graduating class  
23     thereafter, a credit shall consist of not less than one school year of  
24     study or the equivalent based on the demonstration of competencies  
25     consistent with content standards adopted by the State Board of  
26     Education. Such demonstration of equivalence shall be described in the  
27     plan submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-223a, as  
28     amended by this act, and may include performance on standardized  
29     tests, successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited  
30     by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or  
31     other activities approved by the local or regional board of education. A  
32     student earning credit pursuant to this subdivision shall be in the tenth  
33     grade or higher and may apply no more than one such credit toward  
34     graduation requirements.

35     (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,  
36     shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional  
37     board of education may grant a student credit [(1)] toward meeting a  
38     specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
39     seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
40     directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
41     grades nine to twelve, inclusive. [; or (2) toward meeting the high  
42     school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of  
43     coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher  
44     Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,  
45     or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for  
46     purposes of this section.]

47     Sec. 2. Section 10-223a of the general statutes is amended by adding

48 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

49 (NEW) (c) On or before July 1, 2004, each local and regional board of  
50 education shall adopt and submit to the Department of Education a  
51 plan for the awarding of graduation credit equivalents for classes  
52 graduating in 2008, and for each graduating class thereafter. Such plan  
53 shall describe how students shall be notified of the opportunity to  
54 obtain such credit equivalents and detail the procedure by which  
55 students may obtain credit equivalents.

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows: |                     |
| Section 1                              | <i>July 1, 2003</i> |
| Sec. 2                                 | <i>July 1, 2003</i> |

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

| <b>Municipalities</b>               | <b>Effect</b> | <b>FY 04 \$</b> | <b>FY 05 \$</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Local and Regional School Districts | None          | None            | None            |

**Explanation**

It is anticipated that the development of a plan for equivalent credits beginning with the graduating class of 2008 can be accomplished by local and regional boards of education within their existing resources.

---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6480

**AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the definition of a credit for classes graduating high school in 2008 and thereafter. Current law, which the bill maintains in effect through the class of 2007, (1) defines "a credit" as at least the equivalent of a 40-minute class period for each day of the school year, except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at a college or university and (2) provides that a three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, earned at a higher education institution equals one-half credit toward high school graduation.

For classes graduating in 2008 and thereafter, the bill defines a credit as at least one school year of study or the equivalent, based on a student's demonstration of competencies consistent with the State Board of Education's content standards. It requires each school board to develop a plan describing how students may earn graduation credit equivalents, starting with the class of 2008, and to adopt and submit the plan to the State Department of Education by July 1, 2004. The plan must explain how students will be notified of the opportunity to earn credit equivalents and detail the procedure for obtaining them. The bill specifies that equivalent credits may include (1) performance on standardized tests, (2) successful completion of college or university coursework, or (3) other activities the school board approves. It requires students earning equivalent credits toward graduation to be in at least the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and allows them to apply no more than one of these credits toward graduation requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea   24       Nay   2